

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) In the bomb blasts that occurred on 8.09.2006 at Malegaon, 31 persons died, 204 persons sustained major injuries and 108 persons minor injuries.

(b) So far seven persons have been arrested in this case.

The State Government has announced *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. One lakh to the next of the kin of those killed, Rs. 50,000/- to those with major injuries and Rs. 5000/- to those who sustained minor injuries. Similar compensation has also been approved by the Government of India.

(c) The investigation into bomb blasts at Malegaon has not yet been completed.

Vans engaged in ferrying school children in Delhi

53. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of students of Delhi risk their lives while travelling to schools in overcrowded Maruti vans fitted with unsafe and illegal/spurious/sub-standard LPG and CNG kits everyday;

(b) if so, the steps taken to regulate operations of these vans;

(c) the total number of accidents occurred during the last three years involving school vans and the number of students injured/killed therein; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to paint yellow colour on Maruti vans ferrying school children for their safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) It is true that some private light motor vehicles, including Maruti vans, are being used for transporting school children in Delhi.

(b) The action taken to regulate such vehicles include prosecution by Delhi Traffic Police and cancellation/suspension of their registration certificate/permit by the State Transport Authority, sensitising school authorities about safety and security of students and not to engage vehicles fitted with unauthorized gas kits.

(c) During the period 2003, 2004, 2005 and upto 31st October, 2006 four cases of accidents were reported in which one student was killed and three students were injured.

(d) A proposal to regulate passenger motor vehicles, which are presently unauthorisedly plying for hire/reward, ferrying school children, including assignment of some colour to such vehicles, is under formulation of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

**Suggestions of NGOs/political parties with regard to
capital punishment**

54. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for non-governmental organizations/political parties etc. suggesting amendments to the Indian Penal Code proposing to do away with capital punishments;

(b) if so, the grounds given by such NGOs/political parties in support of their suggestions; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The abolitionist, besides criticizing death penalty as of no penological purpose, attack it as irreversible and its execution as cruel, inhuman and degrading.

(c) Under the present scheme of sentencing process, death penalty is inflicted only on dangerous incorrigibles for crimes of heinous nature in rarest of rare cases.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish capital punishment.